



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 24, 2008

S. 550

An act to preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on March 13, 2008*

S. 550 would amend the District of Columbia Code to increase the number of associate judges on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 58 to 61. Under current law, the Superior Court is subject to a cap of 58 judgeships. Based on information from the Superior Court, CBO estimates that increasing the cap on judgeships to 61 would cost about \$1 million a year for salaries and benefits of additional judges and support staff, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the legislation would have an insignificant effect on direct spending and revenues related to retirement benefits of the new judges. The net impact of those changes would be negligible for each year and over the 2009-2018 period.

S. 550 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On February 22, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 550, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 15, 2007. The estimated costs of the two versions of the bill are the same. The Senate Committee's version of the legislation also would have an insignificant effect on direct spending and revenues due to the benefit payments (direct spending) and contributions (revenues) related to the judges' retirement plan, although we did not identify that cost in the February 2007 cost estimate.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.